

A few pictures from devastated Enterprise following Thursday's tornadoes



This church just underwent extensive remodeling but now needs much more work following Thursday's tornadoes which hit throughout Enterprise, causing deaths and extensive damage.

President George Bush stands at the high school with students and officials while addressing press.



A five fold dose of pine trees on a roof near the high school

Just one of the high school classrooms destroyed. The car in the foreground is without windows, as were most others in the school area.



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Reverend Ron Stallard grabbed his chain saw and put his strong muscles to work clearing fallen trees from damaged homes in Enterprise.

Just one of the high school classrooms destroyed. The car in the foreground is without windows, as were most others in the school area.

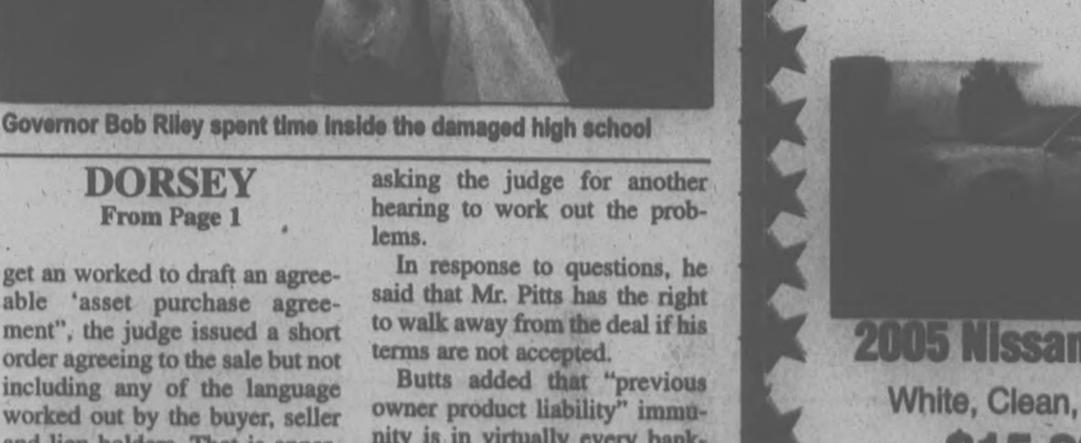
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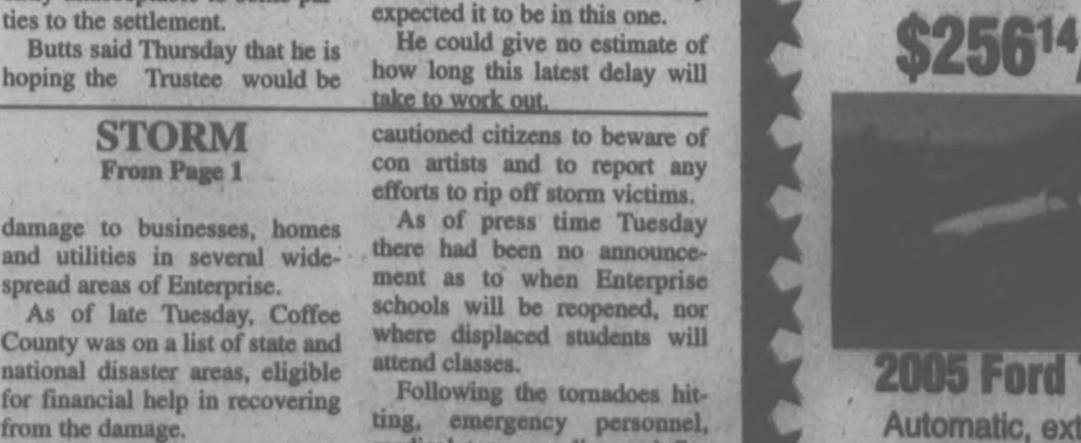
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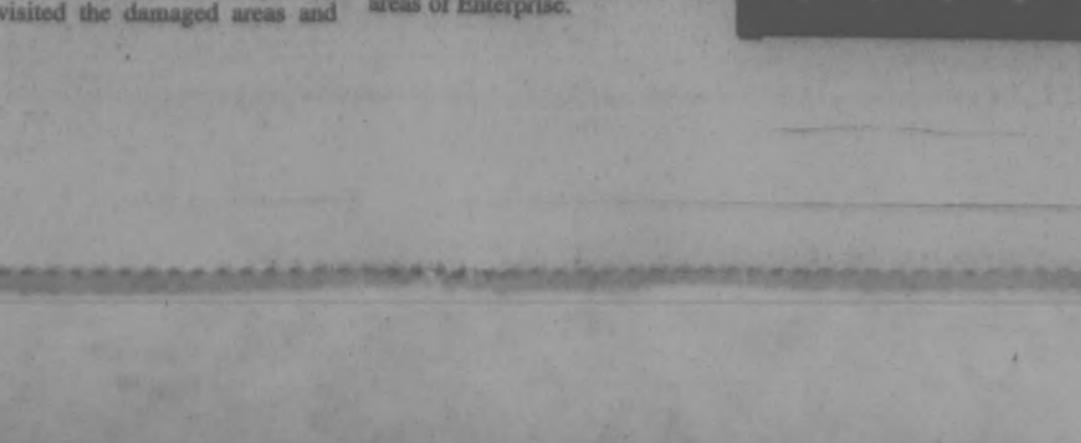
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wedding plans

INSIDE
Family donates
quilt to raise
funds for
cemetery

INSIDE
Elba Chamber
holds "Business
After Hours"

The Elba Clipper

Volume 110, Number 40

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, March 15, 2007

1 Section, 14 Pages Plus 2 Adv. Inserts

Utility officials defend rate increases in Elba

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

Recent increases in electric rates by the Elba Water and Electric Board have caused problems with many household budgets and thus corresponding complaints to city hall.

Utility officials defend the increases as just passing on increases in wholesale power cost and other operating expenses. Their position is that it should have been done a year ago.

A quick comparison review of audited financials for the past four years show power costs to the utility have definitely increased.

In 2003 the Elba utility spent \$2,318,265 for purchased wholesale power. This number increased some in 2004 to \$2,326,719. Then in 2005 the annual cost rose to \$2,690,437 and in 2006 it jumped up over a half million dollars and zoomed past the three million dollar mark to \$3,226,820.

While these numbers are not adjusted for possible increases in total power purchased, there has been no major increase in industrial, commercial nor residential growth during this time period. There has in fact been some drop in activity in all three categories.

The budget comparison numbers can get confusing in a news article; however, it does show increases in several categories.

Gas, oil and tires almost doubled in costs during that four year period; tools and supplies increased and telephone charges nearly doubled.

Travel expense dropped several thousand dollars, as did truck expense. Salaries and payroll taxes actually dropped a several hundred dollars while

Garbage rates were also increased, as was sewer fees.

The residence used 2,386 KWH during the month and was charged \$260.53 under the new rate. The old rate would have been \$215.20. However the Fuel Adjustment dropped from \$23.86 to \$11.93. That netted out to an increase of \$33.40 for electricity.

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the medical leave. No time frame was indicated.

Commissioners opened bids for maintenance/repair of cell doors at the Coffee County Jail.

Only one bid was submitted for consideration.

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EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS
With Ferrin Cox

On Tuesday U.S. Senator Jeff Sessions introduced legislation that would make it a crime to fraudulently obtain emergency disaster funds. We can only applaud such action but in the back of our mind is a huge question mark. Why in the world is it necessary to pass legislation in 2007 making fraud a crime? Mamma told us wee little children that it was wrong to eat that sugar cookie in the grocery store without first paying for it, i.e. it was fraud and subject to penalty... and even now we would rather have punishment by U.S. or local courts than have mama hold court as judge, jury and administrator of the punishment! Reading the fine print on this, and most legislative bills, is confusing to us, but hopefully it is an effort to make it a worse crime to commit fraud following a major disaster than during regular times. Now that would be good news as we join Sessions and his co-sponsors in disgust at such low life actions.

Work has started on taking down the crumpling retail building on the courthouse square. Clements Furniture stopped using that part of their facility in December after cracks appeared in the facade and slipped supports could be seen protruding from the cracks. Engineers later determined the facility had to come down and that is to happen... now. No announcements have been made on plans to replace the building, located on the West side of the square.

Finally Anna Nicole Smith and music icon James Brown are buried. However in Brown's case he is in a crypt at a daughter's home and plans are to move his body later when an appropriate place has been constructed. Actually we heard, what was admitted a rumor, that the same would ultimately happen with Smith's body. As an avid believer in the soul leaving this earth and going to heaven or somewhere... learned souls still argue over the somewhere - concern over the placement of a body is not a rabid issue on this hill. But then neither are we now, nor do we expect to in the future, be jockeying for position to manage a huge financial estate left behind by a dead person. We just want to pay our monthly bills and have a bit left over to buy some groceries. We often wonder how God is reacting to some of the antics often seen following the death of a well known and/or rich person.

A number of kind hearted groups in Coffee County, and all around Alabama, are again raising funds for the annual Relay For Life. This project generates tons of money to fight the dreaded "c" word... cancer. If you are asked to contribute money, buy a ticket, food, etc. please do so. These small contributions by thousands of interested citizens can pile up and be an important help to the fight against the whole family of diseases called cancer.

The debate over should they or shouldn't they have had school in Enterprise the day of the terrible tornado, or should they have let students out early continues, but at a reduced rate. Some of that muting is due to well known national experts backing the actions of school officials - 100%. Our little ole mind sums up the discussions as "Monday morning quarterbacking".

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Elba Police Report

The Elba Police Department, beginning Monday, Mar. 5, 2007, investigated the following incidents: one lost phone, one domestic violence, one found property, one attempted theft by deception, one verbal incident, two for harassment, one resisting arrest, two for theft of property, one forgery, one assault and one harassing communications.

The following arrests were made: two for domestic violence, two for failure to appear, one for harassment, one for resisting arrest, one for forgery, one assault and one harassing communications.

Traffic citations issued during the week were as follows: one for violation of the noise ordinance, six for not wearing a seat belt, one for failure to display insurance, one for improper lights, one for speeding, one for an improper turn and one for a driver's license restriction violation.

Daily activity highlights for the week were as follows:

MONDAY, MAR. 5 - Coffee County EMS dispatched to 617 Mullins (1:39 p.m.); Disturbance (noise) reported at Regency Apts. (11:29 p.m.); Domestic disturbance reported at Regency Apts. on Hickman Ave. (11:47 p.m.).

TUESDAY, MAR. 6 - Coffee County EMS dispatched to 342 Court Ave. (9:43 a.m.).

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 7 - Coffee County EMS dispatched to Elba High School (8:49 a.m.); Possible domestic disturbance reported at 1131 Guyton St. (8:56 p.m.).

THURSDAY, MAR. 8 - Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1848 County Rd. 119 (6:43 a.m.); Disturbance (noise) reported at 934 Sunset Blvd. (8:08 a.m.); Coffee County EMS reported to Skelly Field (helicopter crash) on County Rd. 427 (9:02 a.m.); Elba Fire Department dispatched to Skelly Field as mutual aid for Ino Fire Department (9:09 p.m.).

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6 months - \$13
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LIFESTYLES



Sweatt-Bass wedding planned for Friday, March 16 in Andalusia

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Jowers of Opp are pleased to announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter Natasha Marie Sweatt to Robert Julius Bass, II, son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Spikes.

Natasha is the daughter of Larry and Jane Jowers of Opp and the late Tommie Sweatt of Red Level. She is the granddaughter of Faye and the late Junior Jowers and Ernest and Fannie Kelley, all of Andalusia.

She is also the granddaughter of the late Lee and Kate Sweatt of Red Level.

Friends and family are welcome to attend.

Noon POWER LUNCH set for March 20th at First Baptist Church in Enterprise

Noon hour POWER LUNCH

at Enterprise First Baptist

Church to feature Stormie

Ormantian's video lesson

from "The Power of a

Praying Woman." All ladies in

the community are invited to

attend and bring a friend to the

First Baptist Church Fellowship

Hall at 302 North Main Street,

Enterprise for this hour of fel-

lowship from 12pm to 1pm on

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

(3rd Tuesday of each month).

Enjoy a light lunch (\$3.00) as

the bride-elect is the grand-

daughter of Mrs. Ella Lou Bots

and the late Mr. Julian Bots

of Troy, Mrs. Nell Brooks and

the late Mr. Paul Brooks of

Opelika, and Mr. and Mrs. Collis

Parrish of Jack, Alabama.

Shay is a 2005 graduate of

Elba High School and a 2005

graduate of Baptist School of

Radiology. She is employed at

a hospital in Troy.

No local invitations will be

sent and all friends and family

are welcome to attend the wed-

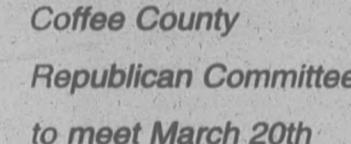
ding ceremony at 2:00 on April

14th at the Covenant

Community Church in Elba with

the reception to follow at the

Old South Inn.



Miss Johnson & Mr. Carnley

wedding set for

Saturday, April 14th

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Danner of

Elba and Mr. and Mrs. Danny

Johnson of Opelika announce

the engagement and forthcoming

marriage of their daughter

Shay, to Robert Carnley, son of

Bobby and Nelda Carnley of

Jack, Alabama.

The bride is the granddaughter of Mrs. Ella Lou Bots and the late Mr. Julian Bots of Troy, Mrs. Nell Brooks and the late Mr. Paul Brooks of Opelika, and Mr. and Mrs. Collis Parrish of Jack, Alabama.

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ding ceremony at 2:00 on April

14th at the Covenant

Community Church in Elba with

the reception to follow at the

Old South Inn.

The bride is the granddaughter of

Mrs. Ella Lou Bots and the late

Mr. Julian Bots of Troy, Mrs.

Nell Brooks and the late Mr.

Paul Brooks of Opelika, and Mr.

and Mrs. Collis Parrish of

Jack, Alabama.

Shay is a 2005 graduate of

Elba High School and a 2005

graduate of Baptist School of

Radiology. She is employed at

a hospital in Troy.

No local invitations will be

sent and all friends and family

are welcome to attend the wed-

ding ceremony at 2:00 on April

SCHOOLS

Student Spotlight

by Justin Williams



Tiger Tales

Editors:
Ashton Rodriguez
& Ciara Burrows

Elba High students take AHSGE

by Sydney Brunson

This student spotlight focuses on **Kynu Coleman**. She is the 16-year-old daughter of Velvet Coleman.

Kynu is a sophomore at Elba High School and also is a member of the Elba Lady Tigers Basketball team, Student Council, FBLA and a Varsity Cheerleader. In her free time she enjoys hanging out with friends and family, cheering, and shopping.

Kynu describes herself as outgoing, spontaneous, and one of a kind. After graduation she plans to attend the University of Alabama-Birmingham and major in nursing.

Elba Elementary School Menu

March 19-23, 2007

BREAKFAST

Monday - Cheese Sandwich, Cereal, Juice, Milk
Tuesday - Pancake Pup & Syrup, Cereal, Juice, Milk
Wednesday - Blueberry Muffin, Bacon, Cereal, Juice, Milk
Thursday - Biscuit/Jelly, Sausage Patty, Cereal, Juice, Milk
Friday - Cheese Grits, Biscuit/Jelly, Cereal, Juice, Milk

LUNCH

Monday - Chicken Wiggle, Butterbeans, Corn, Roll, Sliced Peaches, Milk
Tuesday - Hoggie, Tater Tots, Lettuce Tomato, Dill Pickles, Apple Crisp, Milk
Wednesday - Chili w/Beans, Cheese Sandwich, Mixed Vegetables, Crackers, 1/2 Orange, Milk
Thursday - Chicken Fajita, Rice, Tortilla, Green Salad, 1/2 Apple, Milk
Friday - Cheeseburger, Oven Fries, Lettuce, Tomato, Dill Pickles, Diced Pears, Milk

by Brittany Phillips

EES recognizes second semester student council officers and representatives

sists of four representatives from each grade three through six. The sponsor is Mrs. Lynn Baker.

The officers include Hayes Cooper, co-secretaries; and Logan Bailey, treasurer.

The representatives from each grade are as follows: Raheem Newsome, Bradley Works, J. Cole Spicer, Audeonna Rodriguez, Blake Dawson, Jada McKenzie, Chole Simmons, JonAshley Amson, Justin Pope, Julimaya Matthews, Romelle Jones, Davoseen Stinson, Kaleb Richards, Sagee Johnson and Gant Smith.

When students reach the 10th grade they take all parts. The exam covers five different subjects: language, social studies, science, math and reading.

The first opportunity students have to take portions of the exam is in the ninth grade if they have taken Algebra and Biology. These students take the math and science portion.

When students reach the 10th grade they take all parts. The exam covers five different subjects: language, social studies, science, math and reading.

Students have multiple opportunities to take the test throughout their high school years, and the school also offers remediation classes during school to juniors and seniors. Students who have passed their tests get the pleasure of sleeping in during these tests and reporting to school at 11:20 a.m.

The last and final place the group visited was the night vision center. CW3 Nicholson discussed with the group the history of night vision goggles and how they have improved tremendously over time.

The group had a great time and were excited to learn more about the military.

CCYLP students take aim during visit to Fort Rucker

by Erica Daniels

CCYLP takes trip to Fort Rucker

by Yolanda Terry

On Wednesday, Feb. 14, the members of the Coffee County Leadership Program (CCYLP) took a trip to Fort Rucker.

Fort Rucker is also known as the home of aviation. The group's first stop was at the Welcome Center.

At the Welcome Center, Captain Lewis Morris assisted the group. Captain Morris discussed with the group about the different ranks of the military, and different tasks that different military groups carry out.

After Captain Morris finished his discussion, he took the group to the EST 2000 building. At the EST building the group learned about the different guns and methods the military uses.

After the discussion, the members filled the eleven lanes and missed showed across the screen. After the display of the percentages, the group watched the replay of the war scene and saw the display of the shots missed and made.

The last and final place the group visited was the night vision center. CW3 Nicholson discussed with the group the history of night vision goggles and how they have improved tremendously over time.

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3-15-1p

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3-8-2p

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COMMUNITY NEWS



THE PEOPLES BANK OF COFFEE COUNTY, in promotion of the Builders Club Account, hosted a baseball clinic Saturday, March 10, at Legion Field in Elba for boys ages 8-14. Several local youngsters took part in this free event. The coaching staff for the clinic included members of the Troy University Baseball Team. The clinic allowed the Troy baseball players to pass along valuable techniques of the game as they helped the youngsters improve on and better understand the basic fundamentals of play.

IRS urges people to check before filing

Nearly 137,000 taxpayers in Alabama miss out on phone tax refund

The Internal Revenue Service today urged taxpayers to check to see if they qualify for the telephone excise tax refund after more than 10 million early filers nationwide — 136,562 in Alabama — did not request the one-time refund.

In the first release of this year's weekly filing season statistics, about 30 percent of all taxpayers did not request the telephone tax refund.

Many Alabama taxpayers are overlooking this special refund," said IRS spokesman Dan Boone. "We want to encourage the remaining 1.5 million Alabamians who haven't filed not to miss out on the chance at some extra dollars."

The government stopped collecting the long-distance excise tax last August after several federal court decisions held that the tax does not apply to long-distance service "as it's billed" today. Federal officials also authorized a one-time refund of the federal excise tax collected on service billed during the previous 41 months, stretching from the beginning of March 2003 to the end of July 2006. The tax continues to apply to local-only phone service.

To make the refund easier to figure, the government established a standard refund amount, based on personal exemptions, ranging from \$30 to \$60. If taxpayers have phone bills and other records, they can request the actual amount of excise tax paid. Though using

On-Farm Energy Conservation Awareness workshop set for March 30 in New Brockton

Alabama agricultural producers are facing rising energy costs, but for the most part, are unable to offset the increases by raising the cost of their products. Agriculture is totally market dependent and thus higher energy costs mean lower profits or deficit spending. So in order to stay in business, Agri-businesses must cut costs internally. Energy use in equipment barns, animal confinement units, lighting, fans, equipment and tillage practices are areas where significant cost savings/energy conservation can occur.

The advantages of energy conservation include reducing air pollutants, reducing global greenhouse gas emissions, reducing dependence on foreign petroleum based products and more take home income for the farmer.

The standard amount is optional, it is easy to figure and approximates the eligible amount for most individual taxpayers. Taxpayers only have to fill out one line on their return, and they don't need to present proof to the IRS.

Out of the tax returns filed through Feb. 16, more than 10 million taxpayers did not request the telephone tax refund. And nearly half of those returns — more than 4.8 million — were completed by a tax preparer.

In other statistics released today, early filings show e-file returns are up nearly 3 percent and e-filed returns prepared on home computers up 7 percent compared to last year. Through Feb. 16, the average refund is \$2,733, nearly \$100 more than last year.

For people requesting the telephone tax refund, it is \$30 to \$60 — or even more — onto a refund. The IRS wants to make it as easy as possible for anyone who paid the tax to get this special refund. If you paid the tax and haven't filed yet, here are some tips to help you figure the refund correctly and get it quickly:

• File electronically. Electronic-filing software flags often overlooked tax breaks and helps you figure them accurately and report them properly. If you use a professional tax preparer, ask that person to e-file your return.

• E-file for free. If your income is \$52,000 or less, use

the Free File link on IRS.gov to connect to a private-sector company offering free e-file services.

• Choose direct deposit. Whether you file electronically or on paper, you can get your refund at least a week sooner by having it deposited directly into your checking or savings account.

• Consider using the standard refund amount for the telephone-tax refund. Though using the standard amount is optional, it is easy to figure and approximates the eligible amount for most individual taxpayers. You only have to fill out one line on your return, and you don't need to present proof to the IRS. The standard amount, ranging from \$30 to \$60, is based on the number of exemptions you can claim on your return.

• If you paid more than the standard amount, you may figure your refund using the standard amount of tax shown on your phone bills and other records. Base your refund request on the three-percent federal tax paid, not the total phone bill. Do not count tax paid on local-only service. You must have the phone bills or other records ade-

quately to support the amount you are requesting. These documents should not be sent along with the refund request but should be retained in case the IRS questions the amount requested.

• Do not file duplicate requests. If you file a regular income-tax return, do not file Form 1040EZ-T. Designed exclusively for requesting the telephone-tax refund, this simple form is for people who don't need to file a regular income-tax return. If you want to take advantage of the earned income tax credit for low and moderate income workers, the child tax credit or other tax breaks, file a regular return and include your telephone-tax refund request on that return.

• Stay away from tax preparers who falsely claim that many, if not most, phone customers may get hundreds of dollars or more back under this program.

• Use the Telephone Excise Tax Refund section on the front page of IRS.gov. Here, you can download forms, find answers to frequently-asked questions and link to participating Free File partners.

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Coffee County residents have until Monday, April 2, to place on their garbage cans the green decal sticker recently sent to them. If the sticker is not placed on the can by April 2nd, Arrow will pick up the can and terminate garbage service.

Something Better

by Linda M. Hodge

Chapter Six

It had been a restless night for Kyle. He kept thinking about the conversation he and Sidney had the previous evening. She helped him see things differently, and for the first time in a long time, Kyle thought he might be able to really talk to his brother.

"Don't you ever rest?" Kyle posed the question to Kevin after he found him in the barn working on a tractor. "The sun's barely up and you're already cracking the whip."

"That's life on the farm, little brother. No rest for the weary. I've gotta get this tractor going and to the field."

"Tell me what to do, and I'll help."

Kyle continued to think about what Sidney had said. After he told her about leaving, she asked him why he began distancing himself from his brother and his family. She knew they couldn't have been among those chastising Kyle for deciding to leave, and she was right.

The constant push for him to grow up and do what was expected of him drove Kyle absolutely crazy. He didn't understand why it would make that big a difference. Sure, he was supposed to join Kevin at work, but Kevin was handling things just fine without him.

Kyle had planned to discuss his options with Kevin prior to making a final decision, but he let his Uncle Sam keep him from it. A few days before Kyle left Cedar Oaks, Sam decided to talk some sense into Kyle. It resulted in an ugly shouting match that sent Kyle running. He never said a word to Kevin about it. He just left.

By the time Kyle calmed down, he already had been gone six months. He wanted to tell Kevin about the argument with Sam, but he also didn't want to make a bad situation worse. He had too much pride to admit he had made a hasty decision based solely on anger.

More and more time passed and Kyle decided he had waited too long to admit any of this to his brother. He became ashamed of his behavior. He especially was embarrassed that he had shucked his responsibility in the manner he did. He owed Kevin more than that. Kyle decided his actions were more like a child than a man, and deep down he was afraid his brother was disappointed in him.

In a way, Kevin added to Kyle's anxiety through his own actions. He never said a word to his little brother about leaving. Kyle often wondered if Sam had ever said anything to Kevin, but he was too afraid to ask. Instead of talking, each decided the best solution was to move on.

and make the best of the situation at hand. Kyle found a new life for himself in the city, and he assumed Kevin was enjoying being the sole operator of the farm and store.

In talking with Sidney, however, Kyle began to look at the situation in a different manner.

"Tell me big brother. When's the last time you spent some quality time alone with your wife?" Kyle asked as he and Kevin continued to work on the tractor.

"What?"

"When's the last time you took a break from work and took your wife out?"

"I don't know. It's been a while. Things are really busy around here."

"C'mon. It can't be that busy."

"It's busier than you think. I've got a lot of responsibility resting on my shoulders here, little brother."

"No thanks to me, either. Huh?"

"That's not what I mean. There's just a lot that goes in to keeping everything running around here."

The responsibility Kevin was speaking of was always intended to be shared between two people, more particularly between Kevin and Kyle. In the five years that Kyle had been gone, Kevin never hired anyone to help him manage the farm and store. Kyle assumed it was because Kevin wanted to do it alone. After all, he had looked forward to running the family business since he was a little boy.

Kyle now was realizing some things about his brother that he had been unable to see before his talk with Sidney. She helped him see beyond his own selfishness.

Kevin had never filled Kyle's position within the business because he did not want to replace his little brother. It was Kyle's place, and Kevin wanted it to be there for him if he ever decided to return to Cedar Oaks. Therefore, he made a decision to do whatever necessary and make no changes in regards to the management of the farm and store.

"You work too hard," Kyle continued prodding his brother.

"Just part of the job."

"Maybe so, but I think you need a break. Better yet. You deserve a break. And, what better time to take advantage of your brother than now?"

Next Week: Chapter Seven

Feelings Grow Strong

Produced in partnership with this newspaper. © 2007

Southeastern Community Band preparing for concert to be held March 26th in Elba

The Southeastern Community Band, under the direction of Dr. John M. Long, will play a concert Monday, March 26, in Elba at the high school auditorium beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Elba's own charter member of the band, Mr. Tom Maddox, will be guest conductor for this event. Dr. Long, the conductor of the band, has stated many times that Mr. Maddox is one of the finest band directors and musicians in the State of Alabama.

The one hour concert, which is sponsored by the City of Elba, is free and the public is invited to attend.

Ray Smith



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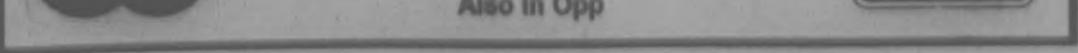
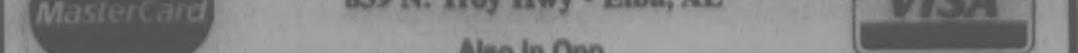
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THE ELBA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE held a "Business After Hours" event Thursday, March 8, for chamber members. The event, held at the chamber office, was sponsored by The Peoples Bank of Coffee County. Those attending were treated to refreshments as they discussed happening in and around Elba. During the event, Laurie Chapman offered a presentation regarding the city's website. She described various benefits of the website (www.elbalabama.net)

CITY

(Continued from Page One)

department is up some as is the police department. Grimes expects the police expense to get back in line in the next few months. The sanitation department and the recreation departments are under budget for the year.

Police chief Freddy Haney reported his department is short four officers, forcing the department to go to 12 hours shifts to ensure the community is properly patrolled.

City Clerk Wayne Grantham reported that the City Council, expressing concern over the recent increase in

furniture building tear down would begin this week. He had talked with the firm contracted to do the work and they assured him they were ready to start.

He said the Beaver Dam Creek bed project is being completed this week.

A request for a liquor license that came before the council at the last meeting is being revised and will be presented to the state and city in the near future.

Grace Daniels addressed the City Council, expressing concern over the recent increase in

utility rates. She said she was concerned for those on limited incomes with no way to get an increase. She added that these people have to choose between electric bills and medicine for their children. "When they pay the light bill, something else goes lacking," she added.

She was told that the Water and Electric board is the correct place to voice those concerns, but Mayor Grimes suggested she bring in some of the actual bills and he would see if there appeared to be a problem that could be solved at city hall.

Below, Business owners and chamber members Kenneth Calhoun and Beth Henderson discuss local issues during the "Business After Hours" event held last Thursday evening at the Elba Chamber of Commerce office. Several business owners and employees attended this event designed to offer fellowship and information to chamber members.

CCC

(Continued from Page One)

County EMA director John Tallas asked commissioners to act on approving the continuity of operations proposals he previously presented. He said the recent disaster in Enterprise helped prove a need for this.

In response, Commissioner Tom Grimsley said he would like for the chairman (Jim Thompson) to meet with Tallas to come up with an alternate meeting site (maybe two) for the commission. He recommended this be brought to the commission for approval at the next meeting.

Commissioner Robert Stephens said the clock in the tower of the county courthouse in Elba has been in need of repairs for quite some time. He said a company capable of making the necessary repairs has been located and can complete all repairs to the clock for \$1,135.

Stephens made a motion with a second from Commissioner Bernest Brooks that the county pay this amount to get the clock back in good working condition. Commissioners approved this motion by an unanimous vote.

Commissioner Linda Westbrook reported that the Zion Chapel Senior Citizen Center building should be completed this week. She said she is very excited to see this project complete.

In other business, commissioners:

TOWN

(Continued from Page One)

Mayor Cole had a bit of bad news to report regarding the work on Tyler Street. He said the rain on Thursday, March 1, washed everything out at the repair site. He said it moves the pipes, and it will require a crane to move them back into place.

Mayor Cole said this definitely was a set back for this project which had really been progressing as of late. He said it is probably going to be a month before the project is back to where it was when the storm came through on March 1st.

During the February council meeting, concerned resident, Michael Jones, addressed council members regarding the condition of Medley Road.

Mayor Cole said the road has been a problem for years. He said there is no right-of-way on that road.

Council member White echoed the mayor's remarks indicating he was proud of the departments.

We don't have a lot of equipment and manpower, but we gave what we had," White said.

Council member Richard Driskell also asked the town's attorney asking his opinion on getting the right-of-way for the road.

The mayor said the consensus seems to be that the only way to fix the road is to widen it.

After a brief discussion, council members asked town clerk, Annette Williams to read a letter to all residents on Medley Road asking them to attend the April council meeting to express their

concerns for the road.

Council members also took time during the meeting to praise town employees and emergency personnel for the help they provided the City of Enterprise following the devastating tornadoes that struck the city Thursday, March 1.

"I want to commend all departments for helping out in Enterprise," Cole said. "I got some favorable comments today on how professional the people from New Brockton were in helping Enterprise."

The mayor said he can not say enough to thank the people of the departments for what they did to help.

Council member White indicated he was proud of the departments.

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The Elba Clipper

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Elba, Alabama

Thursday, March 22, 2007

1 Section, 16 Pages

Elba BOE holds routine meeting

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

The Elba School Board met Tuesday, March 13, and business was routine.

This month there were no visitors except the press. Local citizens were not there to express concerns or defend administration actions as they did a month ago.

The board gave approval to a new list of state adopted text

Resolution still being sought in Dorsey Trailers bankruptcy case

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

The bankrupt case of Dorsey Trailers continues to work back and forth in the federal bankruptcy court system. The expected settlement of several weeks ago did not come to a positive end, but efforts continue daily.

Last week Attorney Terry Butts, who represents the prospective buyer, Pitts Enterprises, said there had been an informal session with Bankrupt Court Judge Sawyer in Montgomery last Tuesday morning. He added that following that meeting, attorneys involved from all interested parties are rewriting the paperwork in hopes of satisfying several technical and other concerns expressed by the judge.

Butts said, he and the other attorneys involved with the case are optimistic of the extra efforts resulting in a positive ending to the case and that Pitts will be building trailers in Elba before year end. He added that while the legalities and extensive paperwork will

take time, he hopes to have the matter back before the bankruptcy court in about 90 days.

Pitts Enterprises is an experienced and respected trailer manufacturing company located in Pittsboro, Alabama and expects to build some of the company's existing lines at the Elba plant as well as build trailers bearing the Dorsey Trailer name.

Elba Mayor James Grimes and other community leaders have met with second generation trailer manufacturer Jeff Pitts and came away feeling that the firm and management team will be good for the long range economy of the Elba community.

books. They also approved several state required administrative related plans.

Parental involvement plans were approved for the elementary school, high school and the system wide plan. They also established guidelines for handling disputes with admitting children classified as homeless.

The parental involvement

policy also lists various opportunities for parents to be involved with their children's activities throughout the school year. Open and timely communications is promised to all parents through weekly student folders, student planners, personal contacts, news stories in The Elba Clipper, flyers, school handbooks and progress reports.

Announcements to board members included a report that the recent school bus inspection resulted in a score of 92%. The system was penalized for a non-working windshield wiper on an older bus which had been sidelined and was not in use, but still on the bus lot.

School safety issues have been reviewed following the Enterprise tornado and found to be adequate. All staff members have been refreshed on the proper actions to take during emergencies.

Superintendent Danny Weeks

updated board members on the

time he left when he escaped last Thursday morning in Elba.

COFFEE COUNTY INMATE'S ESCAPE SHORT-LIVED... Coffee County Jail inmate Phillip Musgrove visited the county courthouse in Elba Thursday morning, March 15, for a court appointment.

Musgrove was guided by a corrections officer as he slowly made his way on crutches. During his court appearance, Musgrove received a revocation of probation and according to authorities was looking at

escaped custody of the corrections officer as he suddenly threw down his crutches, kicked off his flip-flops and fled. Coffee County Jail Administrator Richard Moss said Musgrove eluded officers for approximately 22 minutes as he was recaptured at 10:37 a.m. following a tip from a local citizen.

Musgrove was found hiding under a vacant house on Simmons Street in Elba. Prior to Thursday's escape, Musgrove was held at the Coffee County Jail awaiting trial on a charge of robbery first degree and escape and arrest. Moss said Musgrove now will also be charged with escape first degree.

The escape could result in an additional 15-19 years or life in prison and a fine up to \$30,000.

Sheriff Dave Sutton extended his thanks to the Elba Police Department and the Alabama State Troopers for their assistance in the recapture of Musgrove. Above, Musgrove's crutches and shoes lie on the pavement exactly where he left them when he escaped last Thursday morning in Elba.

Enterprise students receive lesson in building stronger, safer homes

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Some Enterprise High School students received a lesson last Thursday afternoon, March 15, that will help them better prepare for the possibility of future fury from Mother Nature.

Representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) brought a Disaster Avoidance With Good Home Attenuating Unionization System (DAWG HAUS) for demonstration to students. The purpose of the

DAWG HAUS is a re

demonstration to prepare chosen students to build a safer, stronger house.

Lonnie Ryder, a FEMA representative, said today's ordinary house built to code will not withstand strong winds such as those experienced in Enterprise

Thursday, March 1, when a tornado devastated the area

destroying homes and Enterprise High School. He said the DAWG HAUS is a re

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